

NAGS HEAD LINES

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Issue 69

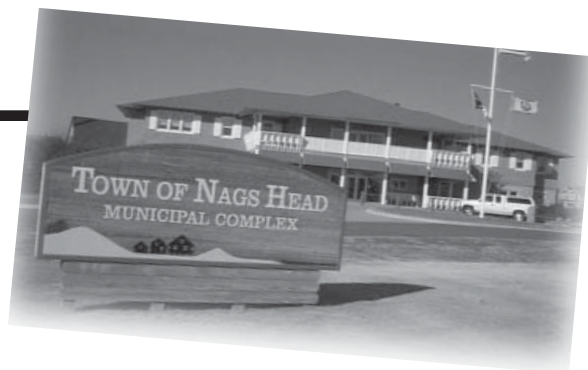
Fall 2008

A communications link between you and your government, this publication intends to keep you informed about the “happenings” in your town.

Message from Town Hall

Looking to the Future....

As we move into a new year, a few changes on the horizon will ensure the future success of our wonderful community.



Jennette's Pier in Nags Head has weathered many storms since opening in 1939. At times, it looked like the oldest fishing pier on the Outer Banks had finally reached its end. Just five years ago, it appeared that the historic pier would be done in – not by hurricanes, but by encroaching development. The NC Aquarium Society, the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, the Town of Nags Head, and Dare County joined together to purchase the pier and five acres of oceanfront property. The Society's plans were ambitious; to transform the pier into an innovative extension of the NC Aquariums.

Since then, the pier has been repaired, nearly destroyed by Hurricane Isabel, partially reopened, and then closed again, as the nonprofit Aquarium Society struggled to come up with funds for a storm-resistant structure. Thankfully, all is now set for construction to begin on a new and improved pier. The concrete-and-wood pier, when completed, will stretch 1,000 feet from the shoreline and be about 25 feet wide. The project will include a two-story pier house of about 16,000 square feet. The site will house educational programs, a 200-seat meeting space and alternative energy generators, such as wind turbines.

The agency began soliciting bids for the project in late October and expects to award a contract by early December. Once a contract is awarded, construction would take about 16 months, hopefully opening in May 2010.

The Dare County Tourism Board (the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau's governing body) and the Town are purchasing 7.7 acres of land on which the now closed Windmill Point restaurant sits, with the intention of using the land to build a much needed convention center. The property abuts 10 acres that the Tourism Board and the Town already own and which will also be a part of the convention center site.

Financing for the building of the convention center, which is still several years out, will rely on a fund built up by the Tourism Board, as well as partnerships with the local municipalities.

Village at Nags Head Wastewater Treatment Facility Moratorium

On August 14 2008, Nags Head Town Manager Charlie Cameron was notified by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ) that the Village at Nags Head Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facility would be placed on a moratorium effective August 19, 2008. Earlier, in July, Carolina Water Services, Inc., the operators of the Village at Nags Head Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facility, were notified by DWQ that the facility was unable to adequately collect and treat wastewater entering the treatment facility. One finding by DWQ was that the filters in the sewer treatment plant could no longer adequately treat wastewater flowing into the plant. This failure of the filters allowed solids from the untreated wastewater to be distributed directly on and pond on the infiltration spray beds. Considerable odors resulted from the ponding of the effluent on the spray beds.

The moratorium that became effective on August 19th prohibited any new sewer taps or extensions into the Wastewater Treatment Facility until Carolina Water Service can demonstrate to DWQ that the required repairs and maintenance has been preformed to adequately treat the waste coming into the plant.

Town Manager Cameron has requested periodic updates from DWQ on the progress of the repairs and maintenance to the wastewater treatment facility. In addition, Town staff will be making weekly visual inspections of the site to monitor the repair of the wastewater absorption fields. While the wastewater treatment plant is privately

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Sanitation Collection Schedule

Residential

East Route

Properties south of the intersection of Routes 12 and 1243 (Whalebone Junction) and all properties east of US 158/Croatan Highway

Summer Schedule (Begins 3rd Monday in May)

Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday

Collection begins 3 a.m.

Winter Schedule (Begins last Monday in September)

Monday and Friday, Collection begins 5 a.m.

West Route

Properties west of US 158 and those abutting/accessed from US 64 and 264

Same Schedule All Year

Collection: Tuesday and Friday

Collection begins 5 a.m. (winter) and 3 a.m. (summer)

Please roll out carts facing the street the day prior to collection day and back to the house on collection day.

Having a special event and need to rent extra carts?

Call Eddie Curry, Sanitation Superintendent, 252-449-4206.

Commercial

Summer Schedule (Begins 3rd Monday in May)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday

Refuse collection begins at 3 a.m.

Winter Schedule (Begins last Monday in September)

Monday and Friday

Refuse collection begins at 5 a.m.

Bulk Item/Brush Drop Off/Collection

Bulk items/brush can be dropped off throughout the year at the Town's collection site across from Public Works at 2200 Lark Avenue. Site hours are: Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. From October 1 through April 30, the Town will collect bulk items from your curb by appointment. Call Nags Head Public Works at 252-441-1122 for more information.

Public Works Projects Update

Several Public Works projects are currently underway, or about to start, construction in Nags Head.

Finch and Grouse Streets - Drainage Enhancement

Nearest completion are two drainage enhancement projects just north of Milepost 16 along S. Croatan Highway (the Bypass). Both projects involve installing thirty-six inch (36") diameter perforated culvert pipe in the roadside ditches alongside town streets. In both locations, erosion had been occurring for several years, threatening to undermine the adjacent street. At Finch Street, 200 feet of pipe and four drop inlets, to allow runoff from the street to enter the underground pipe, have been installed. At Grouse Street, an additional 225 feet of pipe and one drop inlet is being placed. Also, the culvert under Grouse Street, badly deteriorated after many years in service, is being replaced.

Baltic Street Public Beach Access Installation

At Baltic Street, on the oceanfront near MP 11, the Town is adding another improved public beach access. The project consists of three components: a handicap accessible crosswalk to the beach (with wheelchair ramp), a 17-space parking lot, and 6 parallel parking spaces on the south side of Baltic Street, west of S Virginia Dare Trail. The finished beach access will include lighting, landscaping, a stormwater infiltration basin (for the runoff from paved areas), a bike rack and shower. This project is scheduled for completion before the end of December.

West Side Multi-Use Path Extension

The final project, recently approved by the Board of Commissioners, is the extension of the West Side Multi-Use Path. The first phase, completed this past summer, extends from Eighth Street to Carolinian Circle on the west side of the S. Croatan Highway at MP 10. The second phase will extend south to W. Oak Knoll Drive, just over 400 feet in length. As with the first phase, the path will be 10-feet wide, and constructed of concrete. This portion will include extensive drainage facilities, including curb and gutter and culverts.

Village at Nags Head Wastewater Treatment Facility Continued from Page 2

owned and operated, and regulated by DWQ and the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the Town will diligently monitor repairs and maintenance of the existing facility to ensure all residents and visitors have a quality experience in Nags Head.

Tips for Getting Rid of Large Household Items

Large items, such as televisions, washers and refrigerators, are easier to dispose of than you think.

Drop Off Yard

Located across from Nags Head Public Works at 2200 Lark Ave.
(West on Eighth St., left onto Lark)
Hours: Monday, Thursday, and Saturday - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Curbside Collection

From October 1 through April 30, the Town will collect large items from the right of way in front of your property by appointment. Call Nags Head Public Works at 252-441-1122 to schedule a large item collection.

Note - Large Items Can Damage Garbage Trucks

Please do not place large items in dumpsters or your or your neighbor's trash cart. These items can damage the Town's garbage trucks, which could cost you, the taxpayer, money when the trucks need to be fixed.

Holiday Fire Safety

The winter holidays are a time for celebration - that means more cooking, home decorating, entertaining, and an increased risk of fire due to heating equipment.

Facts and Figures

- In 2005, there were 210 Christmas tree fires in U.S. homes, resulting in 42 injuries and \$12.1 million in direct property damage. No deaths were reported.
- During 2002-2005, an average 210 home fires started when Christmas trees ignited. These fires caused an estimated annual average of 24 civilian deaths, 27 civilian injuries and \$13.3 million in direct property damage.
- During 2005, an estimated 15,600 home structure fires started by candles were reported to local fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated 150 civilian deaths, 1,270 civilian injuries and an estimated direct property loss of \$539 million. Homes include dwellings, duplexes, manufactured housing and apartments.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.
- Three in 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen -- more than any other in the home.

Three in 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen - more than any other place in the home.

- Nearly half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February in 2002-2005.
- Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- Purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions.
- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Do not overload extension cords.
- Check your strands of lights to determine the number of strands that may be connected.
- Connect no more than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- Always unplug lights before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Don't mount lights in any way that can damage the cord's wire insulation (i.e., using clips, not nails).
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

For more information, call Nags Head Fire and Rescue at 252-441-5909. Source: NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop

No Trespassing Signs Available

If you own a home or business on the oceanfront, you may have encountered trespassers walking across your property to get to the beach, instead of using one of Nags Head's many public accesses. Unfortunately, trespassers can sometimes become very upset when told they need to use a public access to get to the beach. Then again, sometimes property owners allow people to use their land to get to the oceanfront. Oftentimes, though, property owners wish others would respect their privacy, and their property, and use the public beach accesses instead.

When encountering trespassers, many residents call the police to assist in enforcing trespassing laws. Unfortunately, according to North Carolina General Statute §14-159.13 (Second Degree Trespass), the trespassers either have to have been previously notified not to trespass, or the property must be posted with signs giving notice not to enter the property. Therefore, property owners who encounter trespassers on a regular basis are encouraged to post "No Trespassing" signs on their property in areas that are easily seen. The Nags Head Police Division has created signs specifically for this purpose. Available to Nags Head property owners for \$21, the signs can be purchased at Nags Head Town Hall.

In addition, property owners can also make available to their renters the Town's annual brochure, which lists all the public beach accesses in Nags Head. A list of the accesses is also available on the Town's web site at www.townofnagshead.net.

For more information, call the Town at 252-441-5508 or visit the receptionist on the 2nd floor of Town Hall, located at 5401 S. Croatan Highway (Mile Post 14).



A "No Trespassing" sign warns people to use public accesses to get to the beach.

Watering Your Dare County Lawn

According to Susan Ruiz-Evans, the Extension Agent for Dare County (NC Cooperative Extension), lawns in the area generally require only 1 inch of water/week (delivered every 3 days or so, but a total of 1 inch of water). However, there are factors that may change the required watering, such as wind and soil and sand texture. To test your lawn, stick your finger into your soil, at least 3-4 inches down, to see if the water is penetrating. For more information, call the Dare County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension at 252-473-4290.



Leaving Dog Waste on the Beach Harms the Environment

Scooping your pooch's poop isn't just a courtesy for those walking behind you; it is also a healthy, environmentally sound thing to do. Pet waste can be a significant source of water pollution. When pet waste is not properly disposed of, it can be carried by rain or snow runoff directly into nearby bodies of water or into storm drains. Untreated animal waste can become a source of harmful bacteria and nutrients in water. Just as we don't want human sewage in our water, it is important to prevent pet waste from being carried into our waterways. - Source, Business Wire, March 31, 2008

Septic Tank Inspection and Pumping Program



The Town contracts with independent inspectors to perform free septic system inspections for property owners who have conventional on-site septic systems (the program runs July through May each year). You should contact the Town at 252-449-6047 or email Todd Krafft at Krafft@townofnagshead.net for an inspection. Nags Head will have your tank inspected; however, in some instances an inspection may not be possible due to inaccessibility of the tank. Once your tank is inspected, the Town will contact you with the inspection results and let you know if your tank requires pumping. There is no cost for the septic inspection.

Septic Tank Pumping

If you have your tank pumped as a result of an inspection, you can receive a \$30 credit on your water bill, as long as you provide the Town with a copy of your paid tank pumping invoice.

Repair/Replacement Loan Program

Repairing and/or replacing septic systems has increased in cost substantially over the past few years. To assist homeowners in septic tank repair/replacement, loans are now available through the Town. The maximum amount of the loans has increased to five thousand dollars. Loan interest rates are set with a local bank and are based on the daily prime interest rate less 2.5% at the time a loan is processed with the Town.

Property Tax Payment Plan

With the new year approaching fast, now is the time for anyone who would like to set up a payment plan for their 2008 property taxes to contact the tax collector, Becky Huff, at 252-449-2008 or Becky.Huff@townofnagshead.net. She will gladly help you work out a payment plan that you are comfortable with. And remember, any payments received prior to January 6, 2009 will not be subject to any penalties or interest.



RECYCLING INFORMATION

Curbside Collection

Curbside recycling is provided by Outer Banks Hauling (252-480-6699). For \$7.45/month, Outer Banks Hauling will provide a recycling container in which to place your recyclables. The container will be emptied every Tuesday. Outer Banks Hauling offers a seasonal service (3 month minimum contract) for residential properties that may not need recyclable collection all year.

Town Collection Points

Nags Head Town Hall - 8 a.m. - Sunset (Daily)
Nags Head Public Works - 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. M-F
Huron St. Public Beach Access - Daily

Neighborhood Collection Points

Hours - 10 a.m. - Sunset

Mon. Baltic St. Beach Access
Tues. Town Park (West at Barnes St.)
Thurs. Windjammer Rd. (North Ridge)
Fri. Old Nags Head Cove at Danube St. Sound Access

Town Boards and Committees

Board of Commissioners

Mayor M. Renée Cahoon; Mayor Pro Tem Anna D. Sadler; Wayne Gray; Bob Oakes; and Doug Remaley

Planning Board

Robert Edwards, Chair; Carl “Pogie” Worsley, Vice-Chair; Susie Walters; Angelina Lowe; John Ratzenberger; Clyde Futrell; and Tom Haddon

Board of Adjustments

Jack Cooper, Chair; Margaret Suppler, Vice-Chair; Alvin Hibbs; Susan Boncek; and Annette Ratzenberger. Alternates are Russell Lay, Deborah Bryant, Bob Muller, and Matt Whelan

Note

Serve your community by volunteering for a Town board or committee. Applications are kept on file for consideration by the Board of Commissioners when vacancies occur. If interested, please call the Town Clerk at 252-449-2009 or obtain an application from www.townofnagshead.net.

Personnel Grievance Panel

John Ratzenberger; Perry White; and George Barnes

Citizens Advisory Committee

John Ratzenberger, Chair; Russell Lay, Vice-Chair; Susan Boncek; Deborah Bryant; John White; Dennis Mabe; Marty Moore; Suzanne Tate; and Isabel Pitcher

Municipal Complex Information

Town Manager

Charles L. Cameron/Public Safety Director

Deputy Town Manager

Cliff Ogburn

Public Safety Director

Charles L. Cameron

Planning and Development Director

Tim L. Wilson

Public Works Director

Dave Clark

Finance Officer

Kim Kenny

Town Clerk

Carolyn F. Morris

Public Information

5401 S. Croatan Highway
Administration, Finance/Tax, Water Billing, Planning/
Development
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
252-441-5508, Email: info@townofnagshead.net

Public Works

2200 Lark Avenue
Public Facilities Maintenance, Sanitation, Fleet Maintenance,
Water Distribution and Operations
Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
252-441-1122
Email: publicworks@townofnagshead.net

Police

Emergency **9-1-1**
Non Emergency 252-473-3444
5401 S. Croatan Highway
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
252-441-6386, Fax 252-441-7335
Email: police@townofnagshead.net

Fire and Ocean Rescue

Emergency **9-1-1**
Non Emergency 252-473-3444
Fire Station 16, 5314 S. Croatan Highway
24 Hours, 252-441-5909, Fax 252-441-8268
Fire Station 21, 8806 S. Old Oregon Inlet Road
24 Hours, 252-441-2910, Fax 252-441-3978
Email: fire@townofnagshead.net



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Fall 2008

Town Meeting Calendar

Agendas for Board of Commissioners meetings are published in advance in *The Coastland Times*. All meetings will be held in the Board Room unless otherwise specified. Agenda and background material for the Board of Commissioners meetings can be found on the Town's web site at www.townofnagshead.net.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times</u>
Daytime		
Board of Commissioners	December 3, January 7, February 4	9:00 a.m.
Board of Adjustments (meets as necessary)	December 11, January 8, February 12	9:00 a.m.
Nighttime		
Board of Commissioners*	January 21, February 18	7:30 p.m.
Planning Board	December 16, January 20, February 17	7:30 p.m.
Community Watch Meeting	December 9, January 13, February 10	7:00 p.m.

*Adjourned session meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held as necessary. Check newspaper listings, call Town Hall at 252-441-5508, or check the Town web site for more information.

The Citizens Advisory Committee and Personnel Grievance Panel meet as needed.
Visit the Town web site for current meeting information.